THE SHADOW SAGA
PART 3 OF 4
#3
$2.50 US
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SEGA
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SONIC UNIVERSE™
102
DIRECT EDITION
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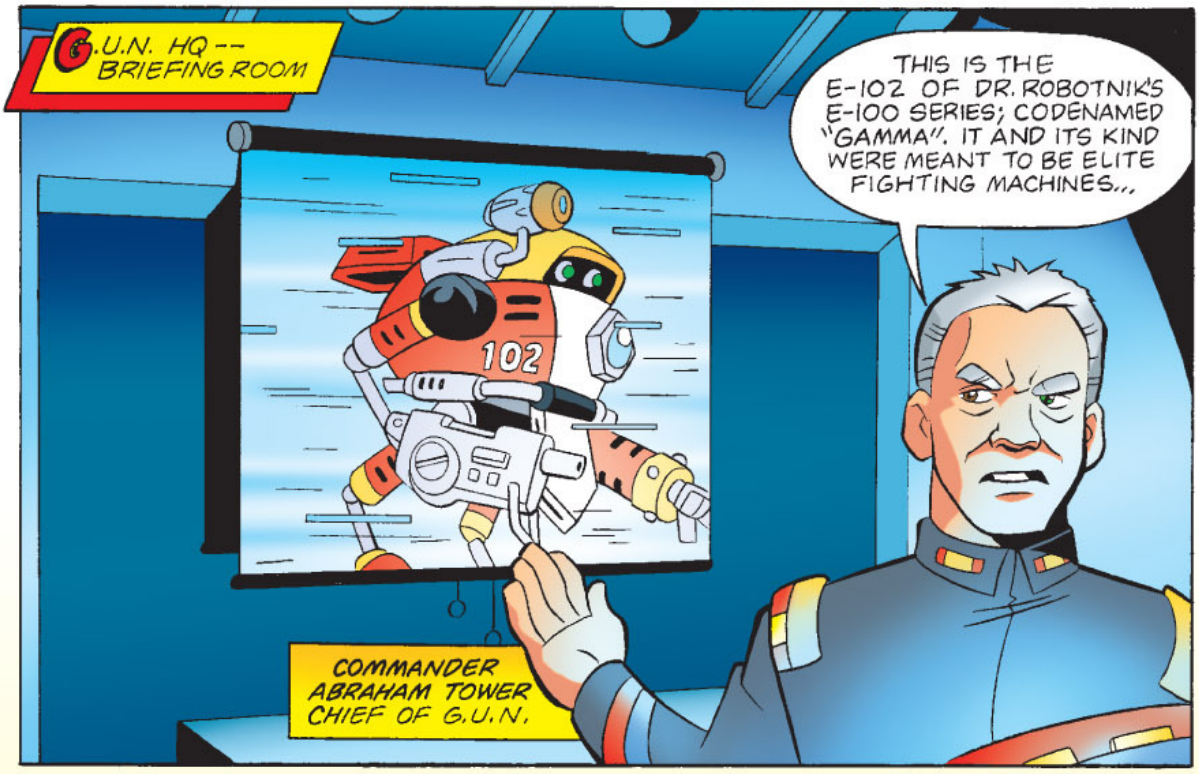
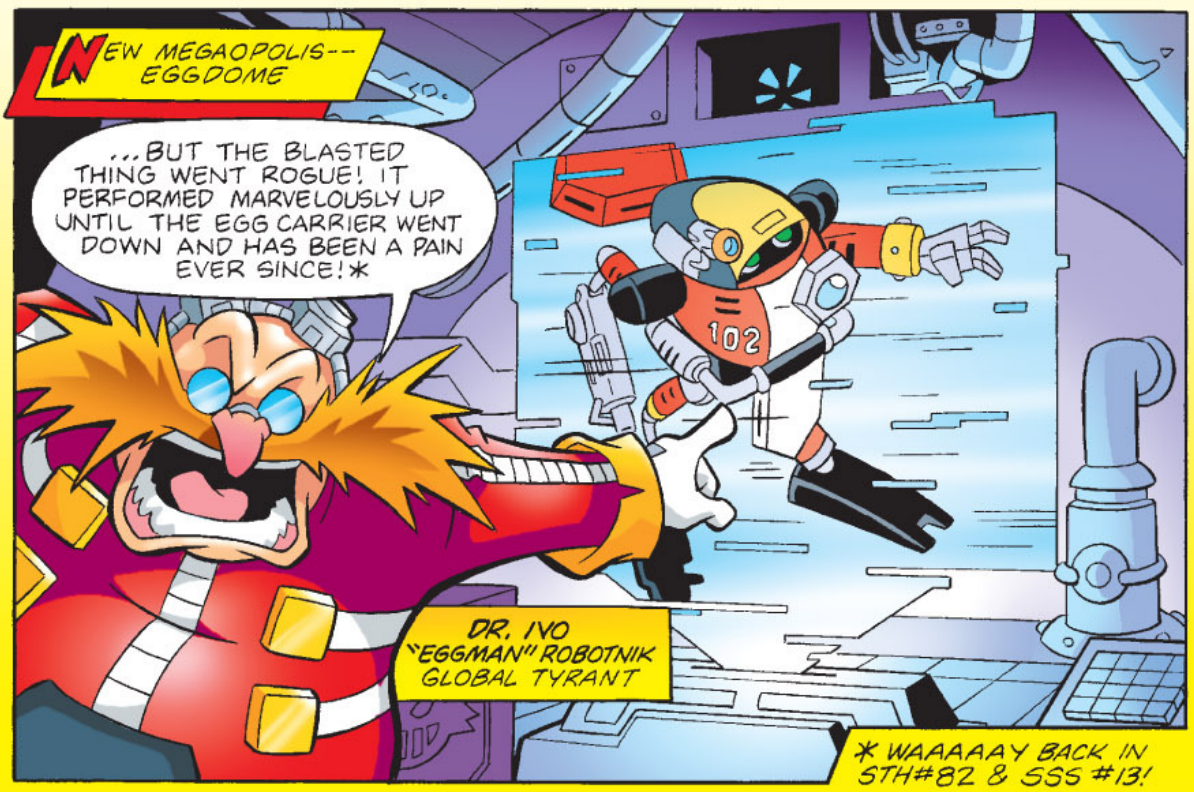
Tracy Yardley!
JANSEN


G.U.N. HQ -- BRIEFING ROOM
THIS IS THE E-102 OF DR. ROBOTNIK'S E-100 SERIES; CODENAMED "GAMMA". IT AND ITS KIND WERE MEANT TO BE ELITE FIGHTING MACHINES...
102
COMMANDER ABRAHAM TOWER CHIEF OF G.U.N.


NEW MEGAOPOLIS-- EGGDOME
...BUT THE BLASTED THING WENT ROGUE! IT PERFORMED MARVELOUSLY UP UNTIL THE EGG CARRIER WENT DOWN AND HAS BEEN A PAIN EVER SINCE!*
102
DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK GLOBAL TYRANT
* WAAAAAY BACK IN STH#82 & SSS #13!

OLD SOLDIERS

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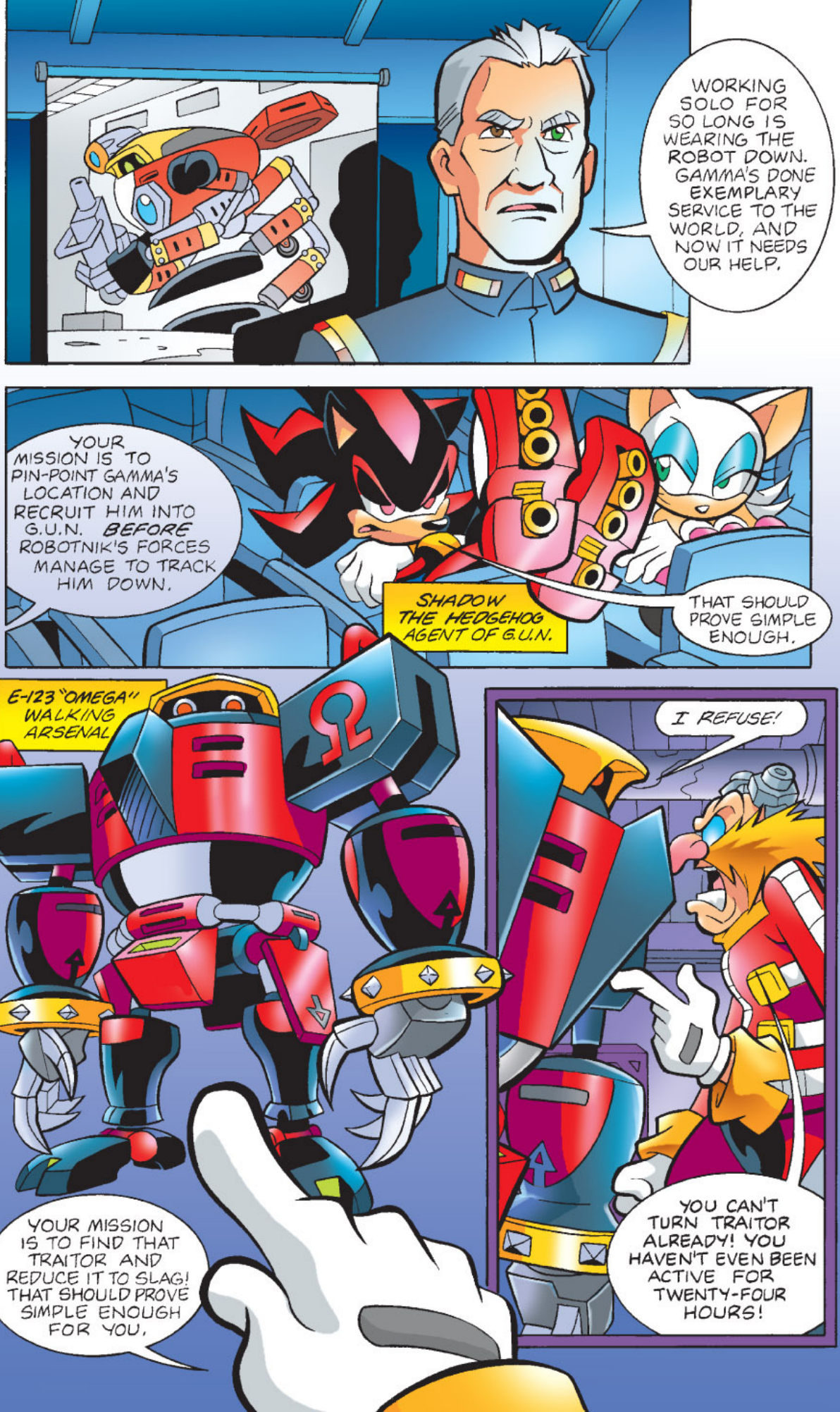
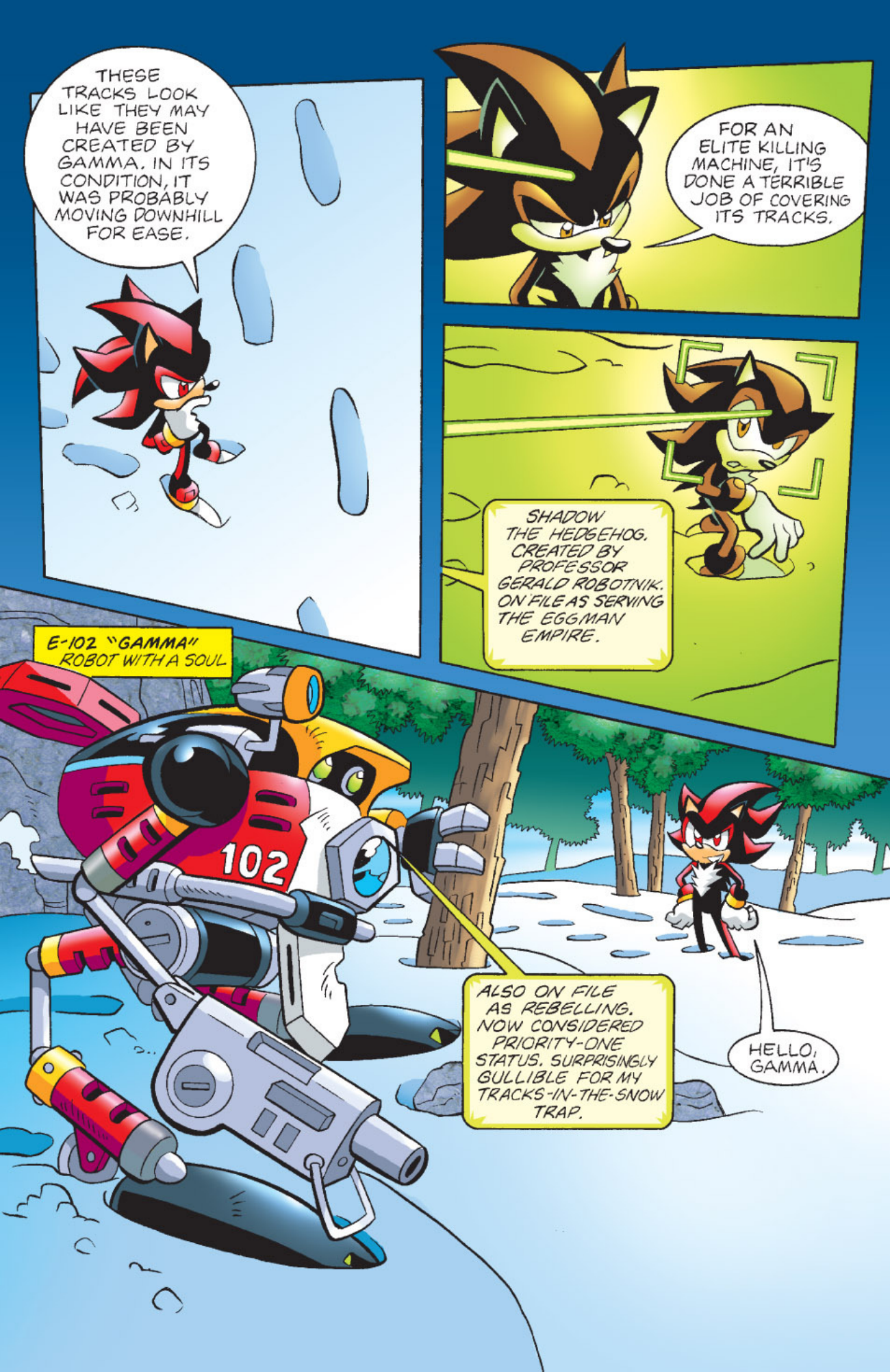
FROM THERE IT WENT ABOUT DESTROYING YOUR "BROTHERS" ONE BY ONE. IF AN OUTPOST OF MINE WAS GUARDED BY AN E-100 UNIT, GAMMA WOULD TAKE IT DOWN!
EVEN BETA, WHO SHOWED SO MUCH PROMISE, WAS DESTROYED. A PITY, TOO. I WOULDN'T HAVE WASTED THE TIME UPGRADING IT OTHERWISE.
AFTER THE LAST KNOWN E-100 UNIT WAS DESTROYED, GAMMA CONTINUED TO TRAVEL THE WORLD FIGHTING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
GAMMA HAS NEVER OPENLY HELPED OR ALLIED WITH ANY OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTER CELLS DURING ITS TRAVELS. THIS HAS TO CHANGE.


WORKING SOLO FOR SO LONG IS WEARING THE ROBOT DOWN. GAMMA'S DONE EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE WORLD, AND NOW IT NEEDS OUR HELP.
YOUR MISSION IS TO PIN-POINT GAMMA'S LOCATION AND RECRUIT HIM INTO G.U.N. BEFORE ROBOTNIK'S FORCES MANAGE TO TRACK HIM DOWN.
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG AGENT OF G.U.N.
THAT SHOULD PROVE SIMPLE ENOUGH.
E-123 "OMEGA" WALKING ARSENAL
I REFUSE!
YOUR MISSION IS TO FIND THAT TRAITOR AND REDUCE IT TO SLAG! THAT SHOULD PROVE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR YOU.
YOU CAN'T TURN TRAITOR ALREADY! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ACTIVE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

EXACTLY. I HAVE BEEN IN STORAGE FOR OVER A YEAR. I WAS DESIGNED TO DESTROY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. WHY IS MY FIRST MISSION NOT TO DESTROY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG?
BECAUSE THE RODENT IS MINE! NOW DO AS YOU'RE TOLD OR I'LL PUT YOU BACK INTO STORAGE FOR ANOTHER DECADE!
YOU DEPLOY AS SOON AS YOU'RE PREPARED.
I'M ON MY WAY TO THE HANGAR, THEN.
YOU DON'T WAN'T ANY SUPPORT?
PLEASE. I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. I CAN HANDLE THIS ALONE.
THAT, AND AFTER MY FAILING TO SAVE METAL SONIC,* I NEED TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I CAN DO THIS. I WILL NOT LET ANOTHER LIVING WEAPON BE LOST.
*HURRY AND GRAB SONIC UNIVERSE#1 BEFORE IT SELLS OUT!

HOPEFULLY THE DATA ON GAMMA'S LAST KNOWN POSITION IS ACCURATE, OR THIS WILL ALL BE FOR NOTHING.
YOU'RE IT?
I'M ALL THAT'S NEEDED. ARE YOU PREPARED?
GOOD TO GO.
THEN HURRY UP AND TAKE OFF.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WISE, SIR?
E-123 HAS MORE FIREPOWER THAN ALL OF THE OLD BADNIK HORDE COMBINED.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING DISTRACTING ME OR MY NEW WEAPON FROM MY MUCH-NEEDED REMATCH WITH THE RODENT.
OF COURSE.
IN THAT CASE, LEIN-DA REPORTS THAT THE DARK EGG LEGION IS ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE ADVANCING FREEDOM FIGHTERS.*
PERFECT! THAT WILL GIVE ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO PRESS MY SCARF!
SNIVELY ROBOTNIK NEPHEW & TOADY
*SEE FOR YOURSELF IN STH#199!

HOURS LATER
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
WE'RE OVER THE DROP ZONE!
BAD TIME TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS.
STOP TRYING TO BE FUNNY. YOU'RE FAILING.
FINE, FINE. GET YOUR 'CHUTE AND...
I DON'T NEED ONE.
FWWMP
FWUMP


THESE TRACKS LOOK LIKE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED BY GAMMA. IN ITS CONDITION, IT WAS PROBABLY MOVING DOWNHILL FOR EASE.
FOR AN ELITE KILLING MACHINE, IT'S DONE A TERRIBLE JOB OF COVERING ITS TRACKS.
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG. CREATED BY PROFESSOR GERALD ROBOTNIK. ON FILE AS SERVING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
E-102 "GAMMA" ROBOT WITH A SOUL
102
ALSO ON FILE AS REBELLING. NOW CONSIDERED PRIORITY-ONE STATUS. SURPRISINGLY GULLIBLE FOR MY TRACKS-IN-THE-SNOW TRAP.
HELLO, GAMMA.

I APPRECIATE YOU NOT BLOWING MY HEAD OFF.
YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF THE DOCTOR'S. YOU ARE CONSIDERED FRIENDLY, BUT I TRAVEL ALONE. ASSISTANCE WOULD ONLY SLOW ME DOWN.
102
I ONCE THOUGHT THE SAME. COME WITH ME. JOIN G.U.N. SEE WHAT A DIFFERENCE A SUPPORT TEAM CAN MAKE.
THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATION. YOU SERVE THE UNITED FEDERATION NOW? THAT IS SURPRISING.
OH?
I DOWNLOADED YOUR FILE. YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM. WHAT COULD I, OR ANYONE ELSE, OFFER YOU?
A SAFE PLACE TO REST, WHEN I NEED IT. INFORMATION, SO MY TIME ISN'T WASTED SEARCHING. ACCESS TO THE WORLD WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY. YOU CAN MAKE AN EVEN GREATER DIFFERENCE.
PERHAPS IT IS TIME. FOR NOW.

THE EXTRACTION POINT IS JUST A FEW MILES SOUTH. THEY'LL HAVE YOU REPAIRED AND RESTOCKED, THEN--
HOSTILE PRESENCE DETECTED. CONFIRMED EGGMAN EMPIRE RADIO SIGNATURE.
NOT NOW! WHERE IS IT?
SCANNING...
Where--?

CRASH
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG?!
EVEN STRONGER THAN SONIC! A TRUE TEST FOR MY MIGHT!
POW
OH. I HAVE LOCATED THE DECREPIT MISSION OBJECTIVE. WONDERFUL.

NO!
GAMMA! GET TO THE EXTRACTION POINT! I'LL COVER YOU!
UNDERSTOOD. THANK YOU.
CHAOS SPEAR!
FSHKAH
102
I MUST COMPLETE MY OBJECTIVE FIRST. I WILL COME FOR YOU NEXT, I PROMISE.

I WILL NOT LET ANOTHER LIVING WEAPON BE LOST!
YOUR SPIN-DASH AGAINST MY CANNON?
THOOMP
BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE.
?!
POW

SURRENDER, BROTHER. DO NOT EMBARRASS YOURSELF FURTHER. A SINGLE ONE OF MY SHOTS WOULD TEAR THROUGH THAT OLD ARMOR OF YOURS.
102
I DETECT SMOKE. IS THAT YOUR GRAV-LINKED JET DISK? PATHETIC. YOU WOULD NOT GET FAR WITH IT, EVEN IF IT WERE IN PERFECT CONDITION.
YOU ARE OUTDATED, BROTHER. SLOWER, WEAKER. YOU CANNOT OUTRUN ME...
...AND THAT PITIFUL GUN OF YOURS CANNOT HARM ME.

E-123, CODENAME OMEGA. THE LAST OF MY LINE. I DOWNLOADED YOUR FILE.
YOUR ARMOR IS HEAVY--BUT SO ARE YOU. YOUR SPEED IS GREAT--BUT YOU'RE UNWIELDY. YOUR JETS ARE STRONGER--BUT YOU'RE LOUDER.
I DO NOT HAVE SUCH LIMITATIONS. I AM NIMBLE. I COVER GROUND MORE EASILY.
AS FOR WEAPONRY...

POW
POW
POW
YOU ARE A WALKING ARSENAL. I AM AN ASSASSIN.
YOU HAVE MADE YOUR POINT.

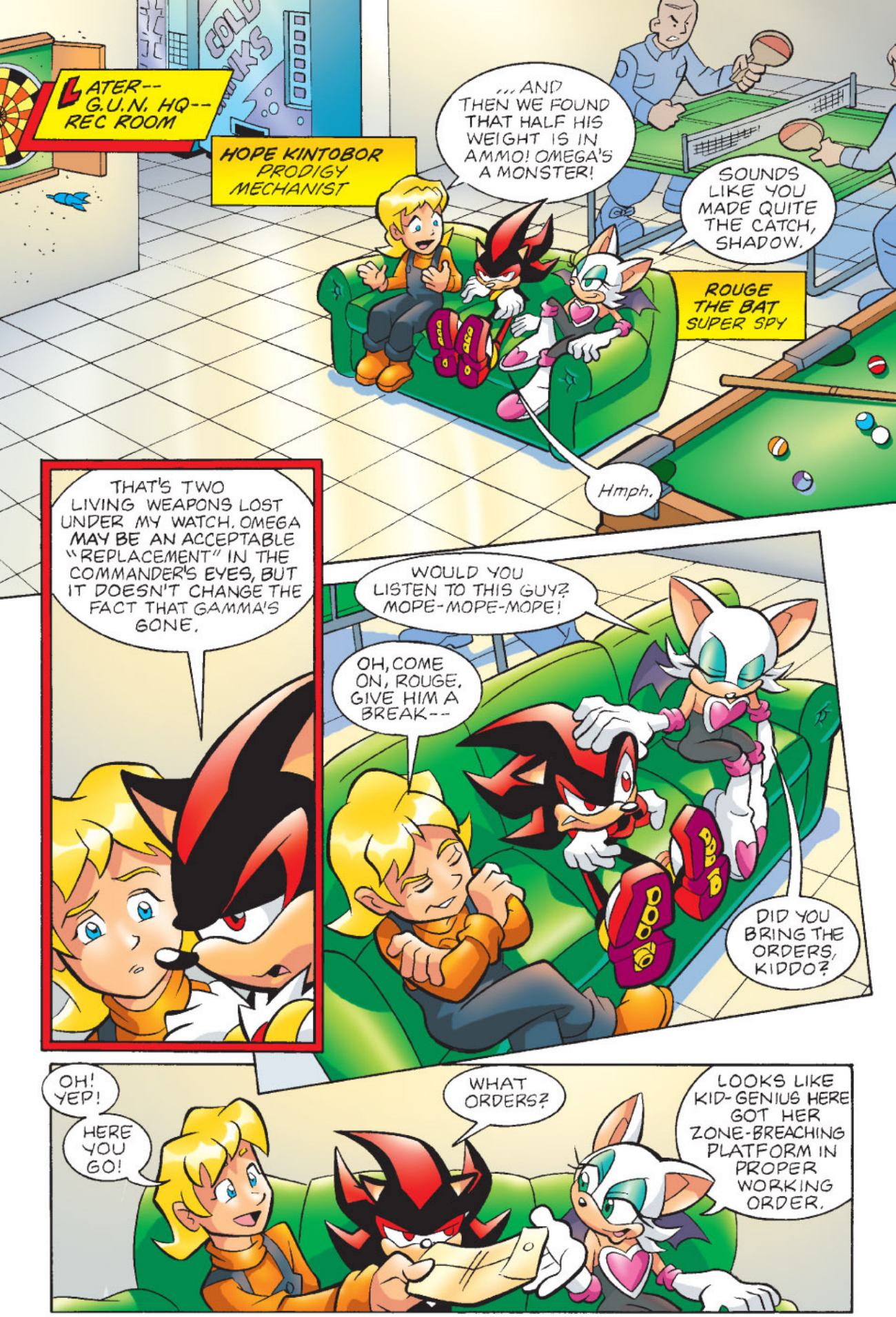
SO HAVE YOU. I AM OUTDATED. THE RESISTANCE FORCES NEED SOMETHING MORE.
YOU SURRENDER? FINALLY.
HOLD ON, GAMMA! I'M COMING!
I SEE NOW HOW YOU COULD DEFEAT THE OTHERS. I WILL GIVE YOU A GLORIOUS DESTRUCTION!
YOU WILL NEVER DESTROY ALL OF ME, BROTHER.
YOU CANNOT DESTROY MY SOUL.

WE ARE ROBOTS. WE DON'T HAVE THOSE.
WE CAN HAVE THEM. AND I WILL SHOW YOU.
TARGET ACQUIRED. FULL BARRAGE!
CHATTA CHATTACHKAN-
BOOM
DATA-STREAM ACQUIRED. UPLOAD COMPLETE.
NO!!!

WH-WHAT IS THIS? UNFAMILIAR INTERNAL READINGS... ANALYZING... "REMORSE"?!
...GAMMA?
YES AND NO. I ISOLATED THE CODING I DEVELOPED WHEN I GAINED MY OWN WILL AND SENT IT TO OMEGA.
VIRUS ALERT! PURGE! PURGE!
NOT A VIRUS--A NEW LIFE. YOU ARE MORE THAN A WEAPON NOW, BROTHER. YOU HAVE A SOUL. MY GIFT TO YOU.
AS MY CODE INTEGRATES, "GAMMA" MAY DISAPPEAR--
--BUT MY MISSION LIVES ON.

SO... NOW WHAT? MY PURPOSE WAS TO CRUSH ALL LIFE. NOW THE THOUGHT MAKES ME UNEASY... NOW I HAVE "THOUGHTS" AND CAN BE "UNEASY."
DO WHAT GAMMA WOULD. JOIN G.U.N. HELP ME PROTECT ALL LIFE INSTEAD OF...
CRUSH, MAIM AND DESTROY?
...YES.
BUT TO WHAT END? IF I HAVE A LIFE NOW, WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE? WHERE DO I FIND A PLACE IN A WORLD I WAS MEANT TO COVER IN GLORIOUS FIRE AND DOOM?
LIVING IS NOT EASY. UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN FIND A TEMPORARY PURPOSE IN INTRODUCING THE DOCTOR TO THAT "FIRE AND DOOM."
OF COURSE! REVENGE FOR WASTING MY POTENTIAL!

A SHORT MOMENT LATER...
IF YOU TELL ANYONE IN G.U.N. I MADE A GRAVE MARKER, OR WHINED ABOUT MY PLACE IN THE WORLD, I WILL TURN YOU INTO LINKED SAUSAGE.
SO YOU ACCEPT MY OFFER?
YES. THE MISSION-- MY MISSION-- MUST CONTINUE.
THIS IS AGENT SHADOW. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. REQUESTING PICK-UP.


LATER-- G.U.N. HQ-- REC ROOM
HOPE KINTOBOR PRODIGY MECHANIST
...AND THEN WE FOUND THAT HALF HIS WEIGHT IS IN AMMO! OMEGA'S A MONSTER!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU MADE QUITE THE CATCH, SHADOW.
ROUGE THE BAT SUPER SPY
Hmph.
THAT'S TWO LIVING WEAPONS LOST UNDER MY WATCH. OMEGA MAY BE AN ACCEPTABLE "REPLACEMENT" IN THE COMMANDER'S EYES, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT GAMMA'S GONE.
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THIS GUY? MOPE-MOPE-MOPE!
OH, COME ON, ROUGE, GIVE HIM A BREAK--
DID YOU BRING THE ORDERS, KIDDO?
OH! YEP!
HERE YOU GO!
WHAT ORDERS?
LOOKS LIKE KID-GENIUS HERE GOT HER ZONE-BREACHING PLATFORM IN PROPER WORKING ORDER.

SO THAT MEANS...
THAT'S RIGHT, HANDSOME. WE'RE HEADING TO THE SPECIAL ZONE. THE COMMANDER WANTS ANOTHER CHAOS EMERALD!
Rest in peace, Gamma—but your mission lives on!
Can Shadow really reach the Special Zone?
More importantly—can he survive long enough to get a Chaos Emerald?
Sonic Universe #4 unveils
TEAM DARK!